

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on Oct. 24, 2008

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (12,00 hrs)
Croat media outlets' statement	FBiH HoP re: conflict of interest	Spiric re statement of IC officials
Zagreb: Ivo Pukanic killed	'Gasprom' to abort gas supplies	EULEKS in Kosovo form 7 Nov
Croatian authorities on Pukanic	CRO police invest. Pukanic murder	OPEC members meet in Vienna

TV news broadcast on Oct. 23, 2008

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)
RHB, RTV Mostar's press release	Deposits insured to BAM 20,000	EP passes resolution on BiH
Komsic, Ki-moon, Brockmann meet	BiH can exist only as integral state	Komsic meets Ban Ki-moon
EU Parliament on situation in BiH	Komsic in talks with UN Sec. Gen.	CoM increases insured deposits
Banking system in FBiH is stable	Samardzija gets 7 years sentence	Experts warn of global crisis effects
<b>NTV HAYAT</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)
Samardzija 7 years imprisonment	Deminer dies near Bihac	Explosion in Zagreb; two killed
Feroelektrro workers continue strike	"Feroelektrro" workers protest	General Electric in RS market
Hayat on Vodusek car accident	FBiH Govt. on conflict of interest	RS Govt. adopted budget rebalance
Pack proposes Lajcak's replacement	Brankovic on FBiH Govt. reshuffling	Bosniaks in CoP agst. RSNA Resolut.

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Shock- therapy for BiH [EU foreign ministers in Nov. about BiH]
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	U.S. Government has not turned its back to BiH! [US Amb. English]
<b>Dnevni List</b>	Croats betrayed – Croats sold Serbs votes for 100,000 marks (alleged election frauds in Bosanski Brod)
<b>Vecernji List</b>	Ivo Pukanic liquidated (owner of Croatian "Nacional" weekly killed in car bomb explosion)
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Ivo Pukanic liquidated (owner of Croatian "Nacional" weekly killed in car bomb explosion)
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	"General Electric" strengthens economy of Srpska (Protocol of RS Govt, US company)
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	General Electric" will construct fast railways (Protocol of RS Govt, US company)
<b>EuroBlic</b>	Patriarch Pavle signs resignation (Patriarch steps down due to poor health condition)
<b>Vecernje Novosti</b>	Features Serbian related titles

### LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

BiH CoM's Spiric:  
Statements of IC officials should be invitation to dialogue

**RTRS** - BiH Council of Ministers Chair **Nikola Spiric** believes that statements of former and current highly positioned International Community officials about the current political situation in BiH should be an invitation for a dialogue to reach internal consensus in order to speed up BiH's path to the European Union. Spiric noted that BiH's path to the EU is political aim which nobody opposes, adding that there is absolute consensus regarding BiH's European future. Spiric said he believes that messages coming from Brussels, from the European Parliament say that the method of political actions is not a guarantor of speeding up the EU admission process or even the European future of BiH.

Chair of RS Association of POWs receives threatening phone calls

**Srna news agency** - Chair of the RS Association of Prisoners of War (POW) **Branislav Dukic** today confirmed he received a number of threatening phone calls from the FBiH after the conference of experts on terrorism, which was held last Friday in Banja Luka. He noted he was told in one of those threats that *"mujahedeens came here and will never leave, as well as that Serbs' place is in Serbia"*. Dukic did not want to reveal more details or the phone numbers from which he received threats. He stated he informed the RS Ministry of Interior (RS MoI) about this and added he expects the RS MoI will deal with this case and conduct an investigation.

### Political developments

BNTV interview with BiH CoM Chair Spiric: As long as IC has powers in BiH, there will be parasitic political elite waiting for OHR to do their job

**BNTV** current affairs magazine 'Puls' by **Suzana Radjen-Todoric** – Guest was Chair of BiH Council of Ministers **Nikola Spiric**. He stressed significance of the EU membership for BiH and criticized the role of the International Community [IC] in the current political stalemate. The Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA) was supposed to enable evolution of the BiH political system, said Spiric, adding however that many individuals have not allowed that to happen. Instead, some BiH politicians have deliberately

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attempted to create a strong position for the IC, which he described as "stupid" and an "absolute mistake". The OHR mandate has expired, he claimed, as it is not taking steps that are moving BiH forward anymore. BiH CoM Chair questioned whether the aim of the IC is to create a functioning state. BiH politicians need to make sure that the IC's engagement in BiH is a success, but negating entities does not contribute to these aims. As long as the IC has powers in BiH, there will be a "parasitic political elite" relying on the OHR doing their work. The most important thing that BiH politicians need to do is to stop pushing each other into extreme positions. Asked about the failed April package of constitutional reforms, Spiric stressed that BiH Presidency Chair **Haris Silajdzic's** opposed entity voting, but that these and other discussions among Bosniak politicians only served election purposes rather than a true concern for the BiH constitution. He suggested the issue of entity voting was deliberately introduced to prevent success of the constitutional reform. Spiric criticized the practice of IC to hold numerous talks with Croats, Bosniaks and Serbs on their own, as though they were representatives of three different countries, which creates lack of trust within BiH.

BiH Presidency's Radmanovic criticizes role of IC in BiH; OHR should close down and IC should remain only as advisor

**OBN** current affair program 'Telering' by Mato Djakovic- In interview the Serb member of BiH Presidency [SNSD] **Nebojsa Radmanovic** accused "Bosniak political circles" and some Sarajevo-based media of being responsible for present tensions, repeatedly stressing that RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** is not destroying BiH and that only some NGOs are speaking about a referendum. He repeated his stance on the role of International Community (IC) in BiH, sharply criticizing the decision-making role of IC in BiH. Radmanovic said that some diplomats in BiH are professionals, but others behave "undiplomatically". He announced that he is going to initiate a debate on Dutch Ambassador to BiH **Karel Vosskuehler** in BiH Presidency. (NB: *Vosskuehler compared Dodik with Viktor Lukashenko, causing harsh reactions in the RS*) "I think we should send a sharp note to Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but we will have to wait and see what the other two Presidency members say...It is not the task of ambassadors to interfere with internal issues of this country, unless they can help", said Radmanovic. Commenting on the possible closure of OHR, Radmanovic commented that local staff members of OHR sharply oppose its closure only because of their personal interests. "I think that OHR as it is now should stop with its work...that would force us in BiH to talk until we agree. In this way, we only have someone to complain to about everything", said Radmanovic. According to him, IC should remain in BiH, but only with an advisory role.

SB: Unlike state of BiH, RS uses lobbies for its interests in the EU

**Slobodna Bosna** pgs 6-9 'Lobbying in the European Union – the way Dodik does it' by Danka Savic – slams the BiH state authorities, accusing it of failing to undertake any serious activities with regard to diplomatic actions in Brussels that BiH could benefit from. The article reads that BiH fails to use direct contacts with decision makers, better approach to information about the EU funds and in general lack of lobbying for BiH interests in the EU. The author reminds that the Director of the BiH Directorate for European Integration [DEI] **Osman Topcagic**, who was appointed a new BiH Ambassador to the EU, cannot assume his new duty because the BiH Council of Ministers led by **Nikola Spiric** still did not appoint Topcagic's successor at DEI. On the other hand, reads the article, this opens space for lobbyist activities of the RS, noting that the RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** has been successfully using this opportunity to promote the RS interests in the EU. Author then describes process of lobbying in the EU, underscoring that the European Commission even set clear code of conduct for lobbyists. Weekly than reports that a lobbyist company 'Hill and Knowlton' is paid by the RS Government to make contacts with the EC officials, members of the European Parliament, EU Council, demanding unanimous private talks and consultations with regard political issues related to the RS and European integration process.

BiH CEC: deadline for filing of appeal for re-counting of ballots expired on Thursday

**BHT1**- The BiH Central Election Commission (CEC) so far received 140 requests for re-counting of ballots in certain polling stations. CEC spokesperson **Maksida Bajramovic** reminded that the deadline for requests expired on Thursday. Re-counting was approved for electoral units in Gorazde, Travnik, Zvornik, Srebrenik, Nevesinje and one polling station in Bratunac. **RHB**- BiH Prosecutor's Office will forward the cases received from the BiH CEC to the prosecutor, which will analyze them and determine whether there are grounds for criminal proceeding, informed the BiH Prosecutor's Office spokesperson **Boris Grubestic**. CEC suspects there were criminal activities in 9 cases. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 10 'CEC submitted with 200 appeal for re-counting of ballots' by M.K., **Dnevni list** pg 4 'Requests for recounting of ballots' not signed, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'BiH CEC receives 150 complaints' by N. K., **Glas srpske** pg 5 'They received 140 demands for recounting of votes' by agencies, **EuroBlic** pg RS3 'Demands for recounting' not signed covered.

All factions within SDS agree Botic should resign

**Glas Srpske** pg 4 'Botic should leave' by Miroslav Filipovic – All factions within SDS, the one close to **Dragan Kalinic**, the other preferring **Dragan Cavic**, even the one considered as the founders of the party, all believe than **Mladen Botic** [SDS President] should leave presidential position due to bad election results. Commenting on the division within SDS one of the SDS founders **Bozidar Vucurevic** stated that

SDS reputation suffers because of internal divisions, adding that Bosic and his closest associates should resign if nothing out of moral reasons due to such bad election results. SDS delegate in the RS NA **Ognjen Tadic** only said that these issues will be discussed at the session of SDS bodies. SDS delegate in BiH Parliament **Momcilo Novakovic** stated that it is necessary to determine responsibility for bad election result in Banjaluka. Bosic refused to comment on Vucurevic's statement but added that certain media reports are directed against SDS and that all issues pertaining SDS will be decided upon by party's bodies not by *Glas Srpske*.

Sarajevo Canton PM  
Silajdzic: My resignation is  
final

**Dnevni list** pgs 6-7 'I proved that citizens can remove me, but not on the streets' by [Antun Mrkonjic](#) – carries a lengthy interview with the Sarajevo Canton Prime Minister **Samir Silajdzic** who recently submitted an irrevocable resignation following his party's (SBIH) poor election results. He underlines that his resignation is irrevocable and final and that he is only waiting for the session of the Cantonal Assembly to confirm it. Questioned why he did not resign back in February when thousands of protesters requested it (in wake of murder of **Denis Mrnjavac**), Silajdzic says he supports demonstrations as act of democracy *"however I do not believe the street is the place to remove a cantonal Prime Minister or some other public official"*. Furthermore, he said the SBIH Presidency has decided to keep the position of the Sarajevo Canton Prime Minister.

Draft 2009 budget  
allocates 10 times smaller  
funds to BiH Ministry of  
Refugees than it asked for

**Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'BAM 22 million less for return' by [Marija Tausan](#) –learned from the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees that the draft budget of state institutions for 2009 foresees approximately BAM 10 million for the return process, which is by BAM 22.5 million less than this year's budget for this purpose. The approved funds are, at the same time, ten times smaller than what the Ministry asked for. *"Last year, we asked for approximately BAM 100 million but were granted BAM 32.5 million. We asked to be granted the same amount this year, but the draft budget approved BAM 10.3 million"*, Assistant Minister **Mario Nenadic** stated. *NN* reads approximately 38 million will be earmarked for reconstruction of houses and apartments, out of which amount the state will earmark BAM 32.5 million, entities BAM 4 million each and Brcko District approximately BAM 600,000. *NN* also reminds the draft 2009 budget foresees an increase of the budget by approximately BAM 341 million, most of which will be allocated to increase of salaries and employment of new employees.

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### Econ. related stories

CBBiH Governor Kozaric:  
BiH banks are now even  
safer

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 15 'Citizens are now returning money to banks' by [I.Smigalovic](#)- Governor of BiH Central Bank [CBBiH] **Kemal Kozaric** attended the international banking conference in Sarajevo. He told daily that commercial banks in BiH have ended the working hours on Wednesday with BAM 1 billion more than they are obliged. According to Kozaric, this means that liquidity of BiH banks is now even better and that banks are safer. He argues that citizens who panicked because of the financial crisis and who withdrew their deposits from the banks are now returning their funds to the banks. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 17 'Citizens are returning money to banks' by [B. Simic](#) covered.

IMF: BiH has safer banking  
system than Poland

**Vecernji list** pg 5 'Bans safer in BiH than in EU' by [Zdenko Jurilj](#) – according to the latest report prepared by the International Monetary Fund's experts, of 134 states in the world, the security of BiH's banking system is in 96<sup>th</sup> place. This places BiH above Poland, a EU member, which is ranked 97<sup>th</sup>.

VL: FBiH taking expensive  
loans, whilst its companies  
deposit money in banks

**Vecernji list** pg 4 'State takes loans, companies hiding BAMs' by [Dejan Jazvic](#) – notes that a dozen or so FBiH-owned companies have deposited as much as BAM 500 million in banks, whilst in the same time the FBiH is taking expensive loans to finance infrastructural and other projects. Apparently, the FBiH PM **Nedžad Brankovic** was angry because of it. VL also carries a professor of economy from Sarajevo School of Economics **Mirko Puljic** who says it is absurd that the FBiH takes loans, whilst in the same time its companies' money is not being used.

EBRD's Moreno: BiH  
authorities have to prepare  
measures to prevent crisis

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'Authorities in BiH have to prevent crisis' by [T.Lazovic](#)- Manager of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] **Julio Moreno** told daily that BiH authorities have to prepare measures to prevent impact of the global financial crisis on BiH. He explains that BiH market is tied to the market of the EU and hence can be impacted by possible recession. *"Better coordination between governments is necessary. This will not happen only to the FBiH or only to the RS, but to BiH and entire region. Maybe they should consider special measures, differentiated VAT rate, support to investments and investors,"* said Moreno, underlining that economic growth, not the banking sector is in danger here. Among other issues, he underlined that credit line for construction of Corridor Vc in amount of EUR 180 million, is not in question and underlined that privatization of telecoms should not be postponed.

SASE conference deal with

**BHT1** By [Anesa Prasljevic](#) – Economic experts, gathered at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International

financial crisis: CoM's measures are late

Conference of the Sarajevo Stock Exchange (SASE), discussed the effects of global financial crisis on BiH. Experts argue that the measures adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers are late, and BiH already faces shortage of financial assets, higher interest rates and slowdown in stock trade. Professor at the Faculty of Economics in Sarajevo **Muris Cicic** argued that BiH does not have a government, i.e. the Council of Ministers, in his view, is not a government but a body "made so nothing can be done." Economic expert **Patrick Lyle Young** stressed that BiH could face even bigger problems in the future, with shortage of capital coming from international banks currently in crisis. However, SASE General Director **Zlatan Dedic** argues that stock trade has been on increase and that SASE is optimistic about BiH's financial future. Experts propose turning passive into active capital, privatization of telecom operators, stimulating economy, development programs, investment in infrastructure and electricity sector.

SASE conference: privatization of telecoms must not be delayed

**RHB-3<sup>rd</sup>** international conference of Sarajevo stock market was finished on Thursday, and attendees concluded that BH Telecom and HT Mostar should be privatized and that authority representatives should reach decisions, which would enable finishing of this process in 15 months. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 21 'Privatization of telecoms in FBiH must not be on hold' by I.Smigalovic- experts underlined that part of capital of the telecom operators should be sold to citizens through the stock exchange. **Oslobodjenje** pg 24 'Intra-day trading starts in November' by A.Pe., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 16 'It is necessary to accelerate sale of telecoms' by B. Simic covered.

RS Government adopts re-balance of the budget for 2008

**RTRS** By Sandra Zrnica – The RS Government adopted the re-balance of the budget for 2008 in amount of BAM 1.757 billion which is 5% more than planned. The Government reminds that it succeeded in maintaining the public spending under 40%, which is in accordance with the recommendations by the International Monetary Fund. The RS Government also adopted the Law on Property Tax, which will in the form of a proposal be submitted to the RS National Assembly. According to the proposed Law owners of property smaller than 50 square meters are exempted from taxation. **PINK**, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'RS Government adopted budget rebalance' by V. P. also covered.

Dani op-ed slams SDA's Tihic for blocking investment projects in energy sector

**Dani** cover splash, pg 3 'Tihic's crime' op-ed by Senad Pecanin – Noting that the "oil cartel in our country has been making fools out of citizens for years," editorial blames SDA leader **Sulejman Tihic** for the fact that nothing much can be done to prevent oil distributors to earn extra profit. Namely, author first slams Tihic for not preventing "criminal" sale of Enegro-petrol to the INA-MOL consortium at low price, whereas now he also acts in harmful way when it comes to the electricity. Author says that Tihic blocks realization of the developments in energy sector, which would result with the 7 billion BAM worth foreign investments. According to Pecanin, true motive of Tihic's preventing of a proposal for selection of the strategic partners in this sector proposed by the FBiH Energy, Mining and Industry Minister **Vahid Heco** is which "thirst" for personal revenge against SBiH's **Haris Silajdzic**. Noting that Tihic's arguments on irregularities in the tender procedure for selection of strategic partners are ungrounded, editorial concludes: "Crime that Tihic is committing against citizens of BiH by failing the project of investing into electro-energy sector can be compared to that of Silajdzic when he buried down the constitutional changes in April 2006. Catastrophic consequences of Tihic's personality weaknesses is now felt only by buyers at BiH gas pumps, but soon they will be felt by everyone else." **Slobodna Bosna** pgs 18-21 'Prime Minister Brankovic's performance assessed poorer than of the FBiH Government' by Asim Metiljevic; argues that Tihic's demands for reshuffling of the FBiH Government have a goal to weaken Silajdzic; and HDZ BiH is driven by similar goal- to weaken HDZ 1990. In addition the article carries a poll, conducted among journalists, professors and businessmen who assessed working performance of the FBiH Prime Minister **Nedžad Brankovic** to be at much lower grade than of the FBiH Government's.

Property and legal issues biggest problem in construction of Banjaluka-Gradiska highway

**EuroBlic** pg RS1 mentioned on cover 'State still on somebody else's ground' by Tijana Veselinovic – The second section of Banjaluka-Gradiska highway, Gradiska – Mahovljani, might be finished within the foreseen deadline given that legal and property relations are solved within the next month and if weather conditions during winter are favorable for construction works, claims the contractor. However, they are not optimistic about courts solving disputable land issues in such a short period of time, stressing that until disputes are resolved they cannot do any further work. Construction officially begun on 28 March 2008 and the contract defined it to be completed by 31 January 2010. **EuroBlic** pg RS1 Inset 'Dodik: Biggest problem our institutions' not signed' – carries the RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** who deemed that the problem of highways construction in the RS is land expropriation, which is why amendment to the laws should follow soon in order to speed up the process. "The biggest problem could be nonetheless our bodies, i.e. the RS Geodetic and Property and Legal Administration and people who work there. The RS Government is determined to reform it entirely and put it in function of this huge project" stressed Dodik.

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## War crimes

ICTY – “Prlic et al” case:  
Witness Simunovic – Red  
Cross did not know what  
was happening in prison  
camps, front lines

**Vecernji list** pg 2 ‘Former mayor to arrive next week’ by Vera Soldo - reports from the trial in the “Prlic et al” case from the ICTY from Thursday (*trials of 6 former senior civil and military officials of BiH Croats, charged with war crimes committed against non-Croats*). Namely, VL carries testimony of one **Marinko Simunovic** from Rodoc near Mostar, who used to be the coordinator of the Red Cross in Mostar. According to VL, the Prosecutor’s Office wanted to compromise the witness by insisting that the Red Cross and Simunovic knew what was happening in prison camps and on confrontation lines. However, Simunovic rejected the Prosecutor’s Office’s claims saying “*we did not have access to front lines, whilst when it comes to problems on the ground, we were not allowed to ask people from the International Red Cross because they were not allowed to talk about it*”. VL announces that former Mayor of Mostar **Neven Tomic** is expected to appear as defense witness next week.

Osl op-ed: strategy on  
processing of war crimes  
cases should not offer  
solutions that reflect  
political pressures

**Oslobodjenje** op-ed pg 10 ‘Strategy!’ by Meddzida Kreso (President of BiH Court) – Kreso reminds there are many unresolved cases of war crimes and emphasizes the adoption of a state strategy on processing war crimes cases will provide with a coordinated approach to the work of BiH judiciary. Kreso notes the strategy should deal only with judicial aspects of the work on those cases and it must not offer any solutions that would reflect various political or other pressures. Kreso also says the strategy should advocate for forming of a centralized registry of all war crimes cases. Finally, Kreso emphasizes the need for establishing better cooperation with countries in the region and ensuring protection and same treatment of all victims and witnesses in proceedings before all courts in BiH. The author concludes by saying the most important thing, however, is to strengthen capacities of the entire BiH judiciary and police bodies to work only on war crimes cases.

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## Rule of law

NN int with Head of FBiH  
Financial Police: no real  
crimes or corruption  
without someone from  
authorities being involved

**Nezavisne Novine** pg 9 ‘There is no crime without people from authorities’ by Rubina Cengic – In an interview Head of the FBiH Financial Police **Zufer Dervisevic** stated less than 5% of 374 reports on crimes, which the FBiH Financial Police forwarded to prosecutor’s offices since 1997, were processed. Dervisevic claims this proves the work of prosecutor’s offices is not efficient enough and adds: “*There is no real corruption and crimes without someone from institutions of authorities being involved in it or making those illegal acts possible*”. He refused to mention any names, but he only briefly noted those are usually state officials, employees, businessmen and even politicians.

SB op-ed criticizes judiciary  
reform: first task of reform  
should have been de-  
politicizing and de-  
criminalizing of judiciary

**Slobodna Bosna** pgs 4-5 ‘Judiciary reform, or- you do not understand my reasons my comrade judge’ op-ed by Senad Avdic- reminds of the current BiH Chief Prosecutor **Marinko Jurcevic** who has left the office because of health reasons and of some other judges and prosecutors who ended their carriers in similar way. Underlining that hundreds of million were invested into judiciary reform in BiH, Avdic stresses that BiH has had almost exemplary judiciary system before the war, adding that the main task of the reform should have been de-politicizing and de-criminalizing of judiciary. Avdic concludes that this however has not happened, “*corrupted and politically biased judicial officials only got new masters, who by the rule, use them and abandon them...*” [**NB:** the headline refers to a famous song of Sarajevo based ban ‘Zabranjeno Pusenje’]

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